

COUNTRY GERMANY	REPORT NO. A56-B-4571	(LEAVE BLANK) HP/39281
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Socio-Political Information	(Interviewer) LESTER, Fred (FN)	(Editor) Schokmiller
AREA REPORTED ON CHELYABINSK, VORKUTA, SVERDLOVSK, USSR	FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAFE)	
DATE OF REPORT 24 Feb 54	DATE OF INFORMATION Jul 47-Jul 50; Mar 51-Dec 53	EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) HALBERT H. ACKER, Lt. Col., USAF	SOURCE 218288	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)		
<p>A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:</p> <p>1. SOURCE was born on 17 Apr 1918 in KOELN. He had eight (8) years schooling at an elementary school and was a black smith by profession. He learned Russian while in the USSR and was able to speak and understand it well.</p> <p>2. From Jun 45 to Jul 47 SOURCE was confined in a PW camp of unknown number at KYSHTYM (5542N/6033E). During this period of time he worked as a mechanic in a coal mining equipment plant. He had very little contact with Soviet Citizens. From Jul 47 to Oct 48, while interned in a PW camp of unknown number at CHELYABINSK, he worked as a miner in a coal mine and from Oct 48 to Sep 49, while interned in the same camp he worked as a machinist in a tractor plant. While working here he had contact with Soviet civilian workers. From Sep 49 to Jul 50 SOURCE was interned in forced labor camp # 61 at VORKUTA (6730N/6400E) where he worked as a miner in a coal mine. While working and while staying in the camp he had some contact with Soviet civilian workers. From Sep 49 to Jul 50 SOURCE was interned in forced labor camp # 61 at VORKUTA (6730N/6400E) where he worked as a miner in a coal mine. While working and while staying in the camp he had some contact with Russian prisoners. From Jul 50 to Mar 51 he was interned in a PW camp of unknown number at DNEPROPE-TROVSK (4830N/3500E). He worked on housing constrs and had very little contact with Soviet citizens. From Mar 51 to Jun 52 SOURCE was interned in PW camp 5110/45 at SVERDLOVSK (5650N/6040E) where he worked as a mechanic on the constr of a sewage farm. While interned in the same camp from Jun 52 to Dec 53 he worked on bridge constr. While working at the afore mentioned places he had contact with a Russian driver and a Russian supply clerk.</p> <p>a. While interned in a PW camp of unknown number at CHELYABINSK SOURCE was tried for a war crime and sentenced to twenty five (25) years of hard labor. His crime consisted of killing sheep and eating mutton during WW II while staying in the USSR. SOURCE never signed a statement. The trial did not last longer than ten (10) minutes. Three (3) fellow PWs who acted as witnesses stated that SOURCE killed sheep and ate them. This was considered a theft on state owned property which had to be punished according to paragraph 43 with twenty five (25) years of hard labor. When SOURCE was repatriated in Dec 53 he experienced that his transport included prisoners sentenced for so-called grave crimes against peace and humanity also. They were mainly former war judges and quartermaster officers who were tried and sentenced to paragraph fifty eight (58) sub-section fourteen (14) to sixteen (16) of the Russian code of law.</p> <p>3. SOURCE was very willing to cooperate. He stated that he liked to be interviewed in order to do his part to help those PWs who had not yet returned. He answered 1 INCL.</p> <p># 1 Memory Sketch of a Tattooing. p. 5</p>		
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

7050th AISW

A56-B-4571

PAGE

2

OF

5

PAGES

wered questions objectively and clearly. His anti-communist feelings were beyond any doubt. It is the opinion of this interviewer that info supplied by SOURCE may be relied upon.

B. SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARD GENERAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS:

4. As being particularly opposed to the Soviet regime SOURCE would single out the following elements of the Soviet population. All manual laborers insofar as they were no specialists, all political prisoners, the Tatars and the Uzbeks. The living standard of the manual laborers was so low that their only hope to increase it was a change of the government and the system. The Tatars as well as the Uzbeks were national groups who hated the Russians and their system. SOURCE who stayed together with Uzbeks in the forced labor camp at VORKUTA learned from one (1) of them that the majority of them worked on collective farms to make their living. In 1946 they repeatedly did not fulfill their norms. Therefore STALIN ordered that the whole population of the Uzbek SSR should not get bread for four (4) years. Besides this order thousands of men and women were sent to forced labor camps.

5. As being particularly strong supporters of the regime SOURCE would single out all communist party functionaries, the MVD and the age group between fourteen (14) and twenty five (25) years. From intermediate talking with Russian political prisoners SOURCE learned that the party functionaries were the new Russian aristocracy. There were only one and a half (1½) million members of the party. Only those Russians had a chance to get the membership who had a recommendation from a well known party functionary. The age group between fourteen (14) and twenty five (25) years of age were automatically organized in the semi military state youth activity called "KOMSOLOLZEN". They received free schooling for high schools and colleges and were trained skilled jobs. As long as they were members of this organization they had an easy life and supported the communist system. However, when left on their own they gradually changed their mind.

6. The major sources of discontent among the population were low wages, high prices for consumer goods and the excessive incomes of the party functionaries. While in SVERDLOVSK SOURCE experienced that ten (10) families who lived in one (1) house had all together one (1) stove to cook their meals. When talking to a Russian friend about this SOURCE learned that it was done with purpose by the authorities. The use of one (1) stove by so many people caused troubles. While having troubles with each other they got in rage and uttered something without deliberation about the system which was enough for a ten (10) years sentence of hard labor. With other words: Inadequate housing was a source of cheap labor force.

C. EVENTS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF STALIN:

8. While in a PW camp at SVERDLOVSK SOURCE heard of STALIN'S death over the camp radio. Then the mayor of the town ordered that every house should hoist the flags. When SOURCE returned to the camp in the afternoon he noticed that only party and state owned bldgs had flagged. While entering his camp he heard another announcement over the radio by the mayor which said that every house in town had to flag until 1800 hours otherwise they were subjected to punishment. SOURCE talked about STALIN'S death to a Russian to whom he became familiar while working on the same constr site from Jun 52 to Dec 53. This man's name was REIZOV (SOURCE'S phonetic spelling). He was forty eight (48) years old, married, slender and of a fair complexion. His father was a Russian and his mother a German thus he spoke German fluently. When he was about eight (8) years old his father emigrated with his family to China during the Communist revolution. Here they owned a large chicken farm and were well off. After the Communists took over in China a Russian repatriation commission toured thru the land and persuaded REIZOV to return to USSR. REIZOV did so and regreted as soon as he stepped on Russian soil because they were awaited by prison trucks who took them to a camp for re-education. No REIZOV had the job of a supply clerk and made 600 rubles a month which was too much to die and too little to live as he used to say. This man reacted to the news of STALIN'S death with the words: "I am glad that this son of a bitch died".

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

7050th AISW

A56-B-4571

PAGE

3

OF

5

PAGES

9. From his friend as indicated under pt 8 SOURCE learned that four (4) forced labor camps in the area of SVERDLOVSK were dissolved following the announcement of the amnesty act of 27 Mar 1953. 34,000 camp inmates were released. They were told to register in SVERDLOVSK. This was ordered because only registered persons received a job. About 8,000 failed to register. They were re-arrested and interned in a forced labor camp again. SOURCE further learned that no political prisoners were released but only those who had a term up to five (5) years. Camp inmates with more than five (5) years got their term reduced by fifty (50) %. In REIZOV'S opinion MALENKOV amnestied these people in order to buy favor for himself among the Russian population and create a good mood.

11. The price reduction law of 1 Apr 1953 was welcomed by the population as the prices for food were reduced by fifteen (15) % and those of textiles by thirty (30) percent. SOURCE heard no further comments.

15. From his friend REIZOV as indicated under pt 8 SOURCE learned that MALENKOV emphasized a new economic policy and the development of the food and consumer good industry. The only evidence that this policy was put into effect was that the population received an extra ration of one (1) kg of flour on the day of the Red Revolution on 7 Nov and on the day of the Constitution on 6 Dec 53 which did not happen the years before.

20. While awaiting his trial in a jail in CHELYABINSK SOURCE was confined in a cell with a Russian who fought on the German side in the VLASOV army. He was about thirty eight (38) years old, slender and of a dark complexion. This man told SOURCE that he was a member of a resistance organization called the Black Cat. Their aim was to remove the Communist Government. All the members had a tattooing on their right arm which showed a tomb with the Russian orthodox cross. Ref is made to incl 1, this report, a Memory Sketch of a Tattooing (seen at pt 20). SOURCE did not know further details about this organization.

E. FORCED LABOR CAMPS:

23. SOURCE was interned in forced labor camp # 61 at VORKUTA from Sep 49 to Jul 50. Total number of inmates 1,200, of whom 380 were former German PWs. The rest were Russians. Number of political or criminal prisoners unknown as they were all mixed up. The inmates had to work in a coal mine.

24. While interned for a couple of weeks in a transit camp called BRYSLKA at VORKUTA (SOURCE'S phonetic spelling) from 29 Sep 49 to 16 Oct 49 SOURCE met an American and a French national. While SOURCE was present the American talked to a German officer who spoke English well. As SOURCE did not talk English his info was based on what the German officer told the inmates of the barracks. According to this the American was a Lt Col. of the US Army who was stationed in VIENNA (4812N/1622E). One (1) night in Aug 49 he frequented several bars and night clubs together with his French friend who was a major of the French Army. Thereby they must have entered the Russian sector where they were arrested by Russian MPs. As they wore civilian clothes and did not speak German they were treated as spies and sent to VORKUTA. The American was about 180 cm tall, slender and about forty five (45) yrs old. He was in a good health condition, had a good spirit and encouraged his fellow prisoners not to lose their hope for liberation. When SOURCE was sent to the forced labor camp # 61 the American remained still in the BRYSLKA. His friend, the French major, was about fifty five (55) years old. He was about 170 cm tall, stout and wore glasses.

25. SOURCE did not experience any changes in the administration or the treatment of forced laborers in camp # 61. Only the so-called KATACHANS (SOURCE'S phonetic spelling) were segregated from the other inmates. KATACHAN meant chain prisoner. There were about 400 of whom who fought on the German side against the Soviets. They were locked up in a separate barrack. When going to work they were shackled. They had to work twelve (12) hours in a coal mine and received two (2)

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)
7050th AISS

REPORT NO.
A56-B-4571

PAGE 4 OF 5 PAGES

meals a day. On the back of their jackets the words BIG FASCIST were painted white. The other camp inmates were strictly forbidden to approach them.

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Commander

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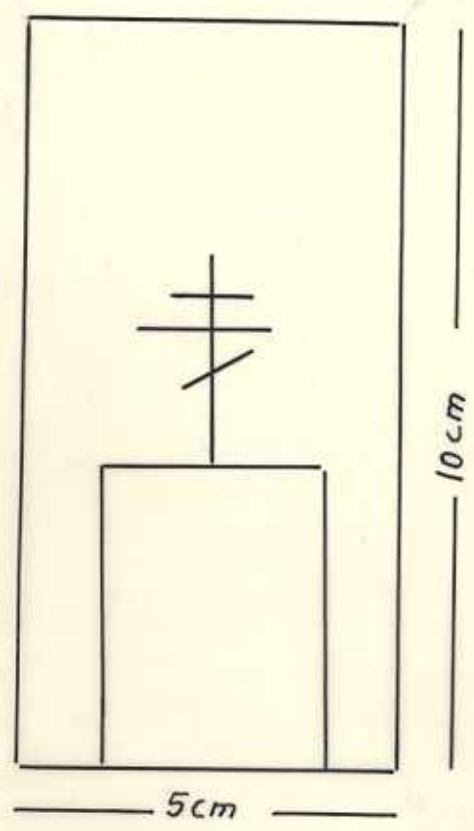
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Air Force—USAF, Wba, Ger-123-5753

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW	REPORT NO. A56-B-4571	PAGE 5 OF 5 PAGES
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MEMORY SKETCH OF A TATTOOING
(SEEN AT PT 20, THIS REPORT)
INCL. 1, REPORT A56-B-4571.



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